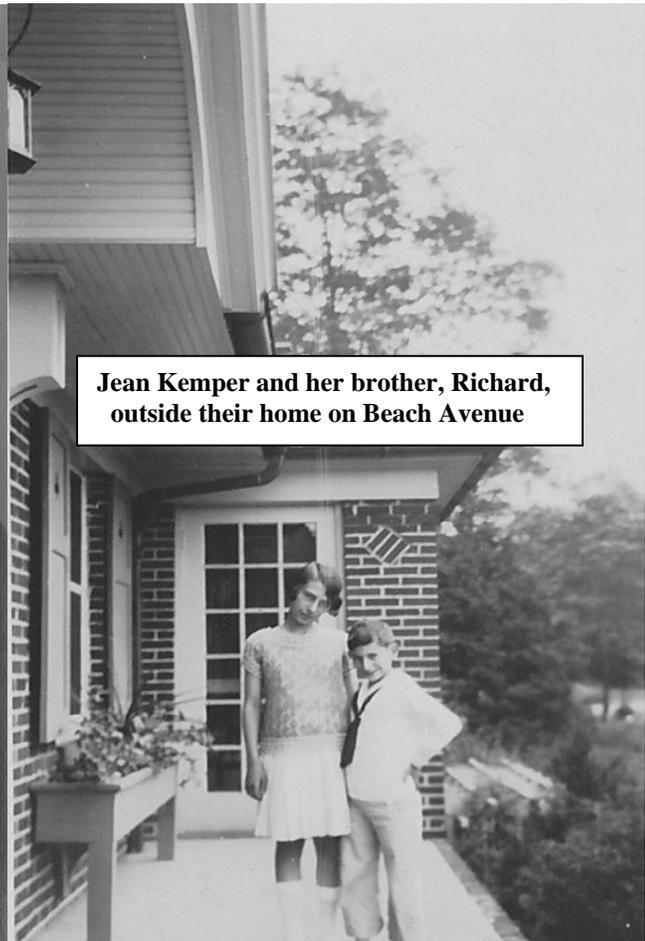


President:	Jan Northrup
Vice President:	Mary Cronin
Secretary:	Margot Chrystal
Treasurer:	Mark Schumer
Directors:	Susan Amlicke, Deirdre Black Corwin, Ed Cofino, John Esposito, Richard Darcy, Tony Marsella, Michael Scully
Editor:	John Esposito

This issue of the KMPPF Newsletter is dedicated to **Jean Kemper**, the sister of Lt. Richard M. Kemper.



Lt. Richard M. Kemper and his father, Adolph Kemper



Jean Kemper and her brother, Richard, outside their home on Beach Avenue

Jean's bond with Richard began in childhood and continued throughout her life. Her commitment to honor his memory and to commemorate the sacrifices made by him and his comrades are testament to her love for her brother and her love for her country. Several years after her father, Adolph Kemper, gifted Kemper Memorial Park to the Mamaroneck School District, Jean herself enhanced the Park's landscaping by having a grove of white pines planted adjacent to the Monument to serve as a living memorial to the Kemper honorees. For over 60 years, these trees have grown and thrived. To this day, they stand as symbols of eternal gratitude and a sister's love. The Park's beautification plan includes additional landscaping around the trees as well as other enhancements to the area that will eventually be designated as a place for quiet reflection in Jean Kemper's name.

In 2001, the Kemper family initiated the annual Richard M. Kemper Essay Contest. For the past eleven years, Jean attended the award ceremonies to personally acknowledge the students and to hear their essays read. In fact, it was only a short time after attending this year's ceremony that Jean passed away. She derived great comfort from hearing the words of young people who recognized the importance of the sacrifices that had been made by others and who had already begun thinking seriously about ways to make the world a better place. In the years ahead, as more contests occur, we know that Jean will always be with us in spirit to congratulate the winners. As we continue to do the work that we know was so important to Jean, she will remain an inspiration to all of us.

Students make meaningful connections ...

One of KMPPF's major goals is to increase awareness of Kemper Park, particularly among students of the Mamaroneck School District. Over the years it has been gratifying to see the many ways that students have made meaningful connections to the Park and the principles it honors. Good teachers know that the most powerful learning occurs when students construct their own meaning from the information they receive. Learning more about the Park's history and the lives of the honorees have helped our students to understand how profoundly their own lives have been affected by the sacrifices made by others. Moreover, they realize how closely the experiences of the honorees parallel their own prior to cataclysmic world events and the cruelties of fate. Most importantly, there is ample evidence that they understand that such tremendous sacrifice was made to create a better world – which is something that they will still have the opportunity to do. There couldn't be a more important lesson, and we are pleased to see them learning it so well.

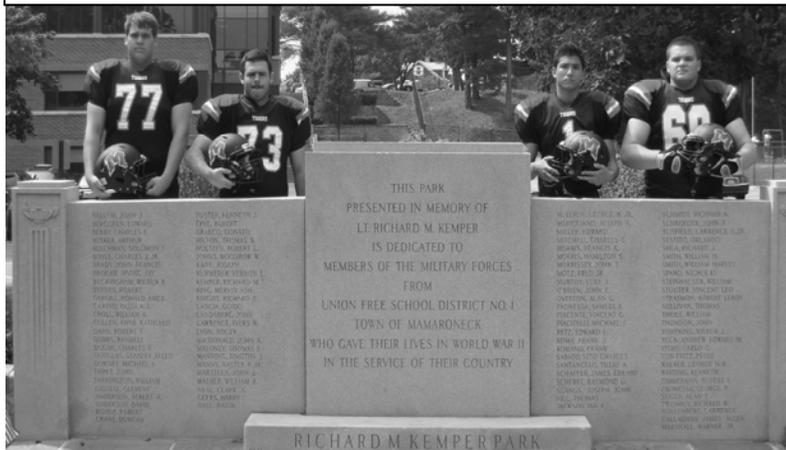
This year's essay contest gave students a choice between two topics. Emily Gerszberg's essay focused on how we can honor our veterans and the causes for which they fought, but what came across most clearly was her understanding of why we should. She begins by describing her grandmother's emotional reaction the first time she saw the Kemper Monument – how she cried while silently mouthing the names of each individual. Suddenly, she sees her grandmother as a seven year old girl in Grenade France, crying as her parents are loaded onto a truck and taken away. As Emily describes it, her grandmother's connection to the names on the monument seems magnetic and so strong that she herself can also feel it. This experience causes Emily to realize: *“Even though I'm able to see the memorial from her (grandmother's) perspective, it is important that I interpret it in my own way. We live every day because these veterans fought for us. It is crucial that our generation honor them and the comrades who carry on their legacy today.”* Emily truly understands. There is nothing more to teach.

Andrew Yohan Lee admitted that he was nervous while reading his essay aloud. Andrew selected the topic that asked what could be done to promote political rights and civil liberties in countries where people still live under tyrannical regimes. He described North Korea as a place in desperate need of help to break the strangle hold of an oppressive government. He acknowledged that the task would be a difficult and often frustrating one, but seemed convinced that the task was worthwhile nevertheless. Throughout Andrew's reading, his nervousness was never apparent. From the first sentence he uttered, his voice was clear and confident. His first sentence was: *“Had the United States not liberated South Korea from the North's aggression sixty years ago during the Korean War, I would never have had the opportunity to sit here, contemplate about promoting freedom for others, and write this essay.”* Andrew's connection to the topic is obviously a personal one, but it is precisely those types of connections that lead to deeper understanding and stronger conviction. We are pleased that students can make such connections and equally pleased that we can provide them the opportunities to do so.

Emily Gerszberg reads her winning essay at the award ceremony in May.



Many of the young men whose names are on the Kemper Monument were football players themselves while attending Mamaroneck High School. Mamaroneck's current football team feels a special connection to them too.

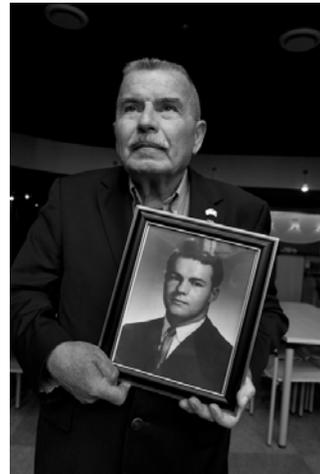


Football Team Co-Captains at the Monument in Kemper Park #1 Robby Nigro, #60 Peter Harris, #73 Kevin Droesch, #77 Tyler Kruse

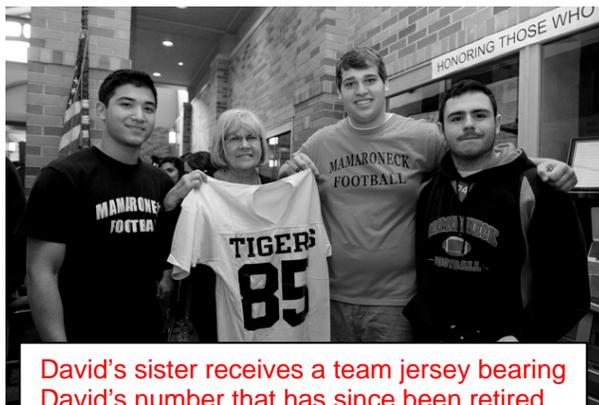
Another connection to our community's legacy of service and sacrifice came about unexpectedly this year through the efforts of MHS graduate Sal Tickli and social studies teacher, Mary Cronin. After graduating from MHS in 1964, Sal, along with his classmate, David Porterfield, served as Marines in Vietnam. Both were awarded Purple Hearts, but David's was awarded posthumously. David was also awarded the Silver Star. His citation reads: *"On July 18, 1966 during Operation Hastings in Quang Tri Province, Hospitalman David Edward Porterfield left his position of relative safety to administer aid to fallen members of his unit and was himself mortally wounded. He continued to render medical assistance to others until he succumbed to his own wounds."* Sal had always felt that David's sacrifice should be remembered, particularly at MHS, where David had been an outstanding varsity athlete in swimming, baseball and football. When he mistakenly received replicas of David's Purple Heart and Silver Star Medals, Sal inquired if he could donate them to MHS in hopes that there could someday be a permanent display somewhere in the school to honor David and the eleven other young men from the community who had perished in Vietnam. Shortly thereafter, MHS Principal Elizabeth Clain, referred Sal's inquiry to Mary Cronin.

What followed was an immediate and heartfelt response, culminating in a moving ceremony to dedicate the two permanent display cases now located in the corridor outside the MHS Café. The ceremony brought together hundreds of people from the Larchmont/Mamaroneck community. The MHS football team came to present David's sister, Pam McIntyre, with a jersey bearing his retired number. Also in attendance were: the MHS Choir, the baseball team, the swim team, the Color Guard, members of the police department, firefighters, the Mayor, and many of David's classmates and friends who served in the war themselves. Russell Barber, a Marine who was actually with David the day that he died, drove hundreds of miles to attend the ceremony. Anyone who was there will tell you that feelings of gratitude, respect and love were palpable. A long overdue debt of thanks had been paid.

Sal Ticli at the dedication ceremony



Russell Barber holds David's photo



David's sister receives a team jersey bearing David's number that has since been retired

Have you checked our website lately?

kempermemorialpark.org



80 North Chatsworth Avenue
Larchmont, NY 10538

kempermorialpark.org

Veterans Day Ceremonies 2012

Mamaroneck's Memorial Day Parade in May

Front: WW II veteran Tony Marsella and John Esposito
Rear: WW II veteran Sheldon Evans and Mary Cronin



American Legion Post 90

Sunday, November 11 – 11 a.m.

Veterans' Memorial on Prospect Avenue
(Between Mamaroneck Ave. & Mt. Pleasant Ave.)
Village of Mamaroneck
Flag Retirement Ceremony Afterwards

American Legion Post 347

Sunday, November 11 – 3 p.m.

American Legion Post 347 Hall
Flint Park - Village of Larchmont

Mamaroneck High School

There will be a brief ceremony in recognition of Veterans Day on **Thursday, November 8, at 3 p.m.** at the Richard M. Kemper Park, Mamaroneck High School, Boston Post Road. Speakers will include: Dr. Robert Shaps, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Elizabeth Clain, Principal of Mamaroneck High School as well as representatives from the Board of Education and the MHS faculty.

